

twice I found a strange exception to the usual food of the birds of this family. In two cases I found green olives in the stomach of *Tyrannus verticalis*, and in nearly all birds of the common species *Sayornis nigricans*, killed in winter, I have found pepper berries. *Tyrannus verticalis* is the Bee-martin of California. It flies from its perch near the apiary, captures its prey, then flies back to its perch, making some rapid motion, after which it swallows the bee. I have seen a toad swallow five bees in quick succession; then have killed the toad to find five bee stings sticking to its throat, and as many stingless bees in its stomach. Does the throat of the Kingbird become a sort of pin-cushion for bee stings, or does this bird extract the stings as it manipulates the bee before swallowing? I am eagerly waiting to settle this interesting question. I have taken worker bees from the stomach of the eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) but never noticed regarding the disposition of the stings. None of the Kingbirds which I have taken in California have had bees in their stomach, though I am told by good observers that this bird does capture and swallow bees.—A. J. COOK, *Claremont, Cal.*

**Rare Visitors to the Connecticut River Valley in Massachusetts in 1895.**—*Seiurus motacilla*.—On the 28th day of July, a Louisiana Water Thrush was found dead, on the piazza of a house in the central part of Springfield, undoubtedly having been killed by flying against a window. The capture of a specimen by Dr. J. A. Allen on Mount Tom in April, 1869, is the only other record of its occurrence here.

*Rallus elegans*.—October 19, a young King Rail was taken in Longmeadow. It was found in the *Zizania aquatica* which grows so profusely along the banks of the Connecticut River. The presence of this species in this part of the valley, I believe, has never before been noted; and the Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris crepitans*) has been captured here but twice.

*Calcarius lapponicus*.—A Lapland Longspur was shot in Longmeadow, November 28.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

**A Correction.**—In 'The Auk' for April, 1892 (Vol. IX, p. 144), in a note on the 'Habits of the Black-bellied Plover in Massachusetts,' I stated it as my conviction that the *adults* do not assume the gray and white winter plumage after having attained to the full adult spring plumage. I also expressed the same opinion in regard to the plumage of the *adult* Knots in 'The Auk' for January, 1893 (Vol. X, p. 32) in 'Observations on the Knot, *Tringa canutus*.' I now desire to withdraw both of these opinions, as I am inclined to doubt, although not yet *certain*, the correctness of such views, but believe it much better to so state, rather than let a probable error remain to misguide others.—GEORGE H. MACKAY, *Nantucket, Mass.*